

I am writing in support of passing Bill #5283. My daughter, Paige, is currently enrolled in the Rockville High School ASTE program. She is able to participate in a program that emphasizes real world application of science, mathematics, leadership and critical thinking. Due to her acceptance into this program she enjoys a combination of group work, hands on experience and a rigorous academic schedule. She is blossoming in this environment being surrounded by staff and students that share her passion for agricultural and environmental resource education and innovation. This program will help to prepare Paige and other students for not only college education but also leadership roles in the workplace and community. Again, I would like to express my support for this Bill that will provide much needed funding for ASTE programs.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Amy Somerville

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